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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: William FORD et al.

U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: PROCESS FOR IMMOBILIZATION OF NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ON A SUBSTRATE

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Charles T. Lewis  
(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)Charles T. Lewis  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3-5, 7-11 and 13 as follows:

3. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the nucleic acid is double-stranded or single-stranded.

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